

What is claimed is:

1. A wheeled container comprising:
  - an axle;
  - a first wheel connected to the axle;
  - a container body having a bottom portion; and
  - a first slot disposed in the bottom portion of the container body and that receives the axle, the first slot having an inboard end, in which the first wheel is positioned for nesting of the wheeled container in another container, and an outboard end, in which the first wheel is deployed for use, and space therebetween to permit movement of the axle along the first slot, the first slot being configured to direct the axle toward the outboard end when the first wheel is placed on a ground surface.
2. The wheeled container of claim 1, wherein the inboard end of the first slot is disposed below the outboard end of the first slot.
3. The wheeled container of claim 2, wherein the first slot extends upwardly from the inboard end to the outboard end.
4. The wheeled container of claim 2, wherein the first slot has a substantially arcuate shape.
5. The wheeled container of claim 4, wherein a center point of an arc defined by the first slot is disposed above the first slot.
6. The wheeled container of claim 1, wherein the first slot further comprises a retainer adapted to retain the axle at the outboard end.

7. The wheeled container of claim 6, wherein a predetermined external force must be applied to container body to position the axle in the retainer.

8. The wheeled container of claim 6, wherein the retainer includes a snap-fit member.

9. The wheeled container of claim 8, wherein the snap-fit member includes a flexible portion protruding from a wall of the first slot to form a throat in the first slot, the throat having a spacing that is less than a diameter of the axle when the flexible portion is in a relaxed position.

10. The wheeled container of claim 9, wherein the slot has a recessed portion proximate to the flexible portion, and wherein the recessed portion is adapted to receive the flexible portion when the flexible portion is in a flexed condition to widen the spacing in the throat to a distance equal to or greater than a diameter of the axle.

11. The wheeled container of claim 1, further comprising a second slot disposed in the bottom portion of the container body and that receives the axle, wherein the second slot has substantially the same configuration as the first slot.

12. The wheeled container of claim 1, wherein, when the axle is disposed at the inboard end, the first wheel does not extend beyond a rear portion of the bottom portion of the container body.

13. The wheeled container of claim 1, wherein, when the axle is disposed at the outboard end, the first wheel extends beyond a rear portion of the bottom portion of the container body.

14. The wheeled container of claim 1, wherein, when the axle is disposed at the outboard end, a bottom of the first wheel is substantially level with a bottom surface of the container body.

15. The wheeled container of claim 1, further comprising a removable structure extending through the first slot between the axle and the outboard end of the first slot to prevent the axle from moving to the outboard end when the first wheel is placed on the ground surface.

16. The wheeled container of claim 6, wherein a removable structure extends through the retainer to prevent the axle from being retained at the outboard end.

17. A method of configuring a wheeled container for use, comprising:  
providing a wheeled container, the wheeled container including:  
an axle;  
a first wheel connected to the axle;  
a container body having a bottom portion; and  
a first slot disposed in the bottom portion of the container body and that receives the axle, the first slot having an inboard end, in which the first wheel is positioned for nesting of the wheeled container in another container, and an outboard end, in which the first wheel is deployed for use, and space therebetween to permit movement of the axle along the first slot; and  
placing the wheeled container on a ground surface and thereby causing the axle to move from the inboard position toward the outboard position.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the first slot further comprises a retainer adapted to retain the axle at the outboard end, and further comprising applying an external force to the container body to position the axle in the retainer.